

Appendix C

Notes from Taxi Policy Meeting with Representatives of the trade – 11 September 2023

Comments from Trade

- Business is a mix of rank, prior bookings and school contracts
- Not enough drivers wanting to work at night
- Mix of owner drivers and commissioned drivers
- Current number of drivers makes it difficult to satisfy demand by customers, results in long wait times and losing trade as they don't want to wait that long.
- Cross border hiring makes reduces trade for TDC licensed drivers
- Lots of drivers left due to covid as they couldn't afford the insurances etc and the older drivers decided to retire.
- Younger people don't seem to want to become drivers, but are at loss of how to encourage younger drivers.
- Process to getting licences granted can take a bit of time which is off-putting for many drivers
- There is a lot of money to pay out up front before being granted a licence.
- Not clear on where drivers can ply trade e.g. ranks throughout District.
- No ranks at all in Harwich and not enough in Frinton
- Why the request to distinguish HCV/PHV more – has there been any problems
- Too many restrictions on vehicles make it harder for drivers to meet licensing requirements against the budgets available to them.
- Lots of Drivers don't work the whole district – do they need to be tested on the whole area as they use Sat Navs for the areas they don't work frequently.
- Some drivers don't feel they need it as only do day work, but agree it could be useful to have dashcam for example as they are less expensive than full CCTV and still can be of assistance for safety etc. Don't think it would encourage them to work nights.
- Would consideration be given to reducing the 4 years holding of a DVLA licence – propose 2 years for example.

Cllrs & Officer Comments

- Companies can use the TDC Jobs Fair – Licensing to liaise when they come up.
- Intend to review rank spaces every 3 years – input from trade would be helpful.
- Knowledge Test to be made available to Councillors and select few long standing drivers to given them the opportunity so what it involves firsthand
- Trade views on CCTV would be very helpful. Do they think it would encourage drivers to work nights.
- Trade to be notified when L&R Committee to take place so drivers can attend if they wish to do so.
- Consultation open until 20 September – spread word to drivers to complete consultation to help give us better insight of what changes they would like. If unable to do it online, contact Licensing and we will arrange for them to come to office to complete it.